



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/664,443	09/19/2003	Alexander Serkh	T02-062A	4511
26683	7590	09/13/2004	EXAMINER	
THE GATES CORPORATION			JOHNSON, VICKY A	
IP LAW DEPT. 10-A3			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1551 WEWATTA STREET				3682
DENVER, CO 80202				

DATE MAILED: 09/13/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/664,443	SERKH, ALEXANDER	
	Examiner	Art Unit	MW
	Vicky A. Johnson	3682	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) ____ is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-22 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 19 September 2003 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>9/19/03</u> .	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 2-10 and 13-20 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 2, 5, 8, 13, 16, and 19 are indefinite because it is unclear which plane is being referred to by the limitation "the plane at the center of rotation of the pulley (or pivot bearing)". There are an infinite number of planes at the center of rotation of the pulley, such as a horizontal plane and a vertical plane. For this office action a vertical plane will be used as the plane at the center of rotation of the pulley or pivot bearing.

Claims 3, 7, 14, and 18 recite the limitation "said strut attachment" in line 1. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-3 and 5-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Schmid (US 6,039,664).

Schmid discloses an improved power transmission belt tensioner of the type having a pulley (3) adapted to communicate with a surface of a power transmission belt, an arm (2) supporting said pulley upon which said pulley is rotatably mounted via a pulley bearing (see Fig 2), a shaft (5) supporting said arm, said shaft rotatably supported by a pivot bearing (13), an attachment point (see Fig 2) for a strut (1), and said strut attached to said attachment point (see Fig 2), the improvement comprising: said pulley (right side) and said attachment point (left side) laterally offset in relation to said pivot bearing and substantially balanced in terms of parasitic torque across said pivot bearing (It is inherent that the forces of the strut would balance out the forces of the pulley, because as the belt applies more force against the pulley the strut would apply an equal opposite force in order to keep tension on the belt. The forces of the pulley and the strut have to pass through the pivot bearing and balance in order to keep the appropriate tension on the belt).

Re claim 2, said strut attachment point is laterally opposite of said pivot bearing in relation to the plane at the center of rotation of said pulley (see Fig 2).

Re claim 3, said strut attachment forms part of a member (2) extending from a support for said pulley bearing (see Fig 2).

Re claim 5, said strut attachment point is laterally opposite of said pulley in relation to the plane at the center of rotation of said pivot bearing (see Fig 2).

Re claim 6, said strut attachment point is beyond the lateral limits of said pivot bearing (see Fig 2).

Re claim 7, said strut attachment forms part of a member (2) extending from said shaft (see Fig 2).

Re claim 8, the plane at the center of rotation of said pulley is beyond the lateral limits of said pivot bearing (see Fig 2).

Re claim 9, said pulley is radially opposite of said attachment point in relation to said pivot bearing (see Fig 2).

Re claim 10, said member (2) is a lever arm.

Re claim 11, said tensioner includes a base (2) adapted to support an accessory (the base 2 is capable of being adapted to hold an accessory).

5. Claims 12-14 and 16-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Mutoh et al (DE 3809169).

Mutoh et al disclose a power transmission drive comprising; a crankshaft pulley (1); an accessory pulley (3); a power transmission belt (5); a power transmission belt tensioner having a tensioner pulley (6) adapted to communicate with a surface of said power transmission belt (see Fig 1), an arm (7) supporting said tensioner pulley upon which said tensioner pulley is rotatably mounted via a pulley bearing (9), a shaft (10) supporting said arm, said shaft rotatably supported by a pivot bearing (unnumbered, see Fig 2), an attachment point (unnumbered, see Fig 1) for a strut (21), and said strut attached to said attachment point (at 28), said pulley and said attachment point laterally offset in relation to said pivot bearing (see Fig 2) and substantially balanced in terms of parasitic torque across said pivot bearing (It is inherent that the forces of the strut would balance out the forces of the pulley, because as the belt applies more force against the

pulley the strut would apply an equal opposite force in order to keep tension on the belt. The forces of the pulley and the strut have to pass through the pivot bearing and balance in order to keep the appropriate tension on the belt) and, said power transmission belt trained about said crankshaft pulley, said accessory pulley and said tensioner pulley (see Fig 1).

Re claim 13, said strut attachment point being laterally opposite of said pivot bearing in relation to the plane at the center of rotation of said tensioner pulley (see Fig 2).

Re claim 14, said strut attachment forms part of a member (7) extending from a support for said pulley bearing (see Fig 2).

Re claim 16, said strut attachment point being laterally opposite of said pulley in relation to the plane at the center of rotation of said pivot bearing (see Fig 2).

Re claim 17, said strut attachment point being beyond the lateral limits of said pivot bearing (see Fig 2).

Re claim 18, said strut attachment forms part of a member (7) extending from said shaft.

Re claim 19, the plane at the center of rotation of said pulley being beyond the lateral limits of said pivot bearing (see Fig 2).

Re claim 20, said member (7) being a lever arm.

Re claim 21, said power transmission tensioner includes a base adapted to support an accessory (the base 7 is capable of being adapted to hold an accessory).

Re claim 22, Mutoh et al disclose method of tensioning a power transmission belt comprising: providing said power transmission belt (5), providing a pivot bearing (unnumbered see Fig 2), providing a tensioner having a pulley (6) adapted to communicate with a surface of said power transmission belt (see Fig 2), a supporting structure (7) including a supporting shaft (10) rotatably supported by said pivot bearing for supporting a supporting arm (see Fig 2), said supporting arm for supporting said pulley (see Fig 2), said pulley being rotatably mounted upon said supporting arm via a pulley bearing (9), said pulley being laterally offset in relation to said pivot bearing (see Fig 2), and an attachment point (at 28) for a strut (21), said attachment point being laterally offset in relation to said pivot bearing (see Fig 2), providing said strut (21), communicating a biasing force from said strut to said attachment point (at 28), said supporting structure (7) communicating said biasing force to said pulley through rotation about said pivot bearing (10), and substantially balancing said biasing force at said pivot bearing in terms of parasitic torque (It is inherent that the forces of the strut would balance out the forces of the pulley, because as the belt applies more force against the pulley the strut would apply an equal opposite force in order to keep tension on the belt. The forces of the pulley and the strut have to pass through the pivot bearing and balance in order to keep the appropriate tension on the belt).

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 4 and 15 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

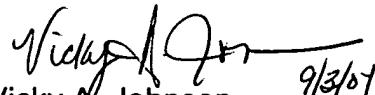
7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

6,398,681	Wanie	(tensioner)
6,612,408	Serkh et al	(strut)
4,530,682	Gruber et al	(tensioner)
6,702,266	Dec	(strut)

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vicky A. Johnson whose telephone number is (703) 305-3013. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday (7:00a-5:00p).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David A. Bucci can be reached on (703) 308-3668. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



9/3/07
Vicky A. Johnson
Examiner
Art Unit 3682

